

ORDER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
SOUTHERN REGION

SO 6310.8 A

8/5/93

SUBJ: GUIDELINES FOR TREE GROWTH ALLOWANCES AT RADAR FACILITIES

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this order is to provide guidelines to Airway Facilities field offices in achieving and maintaining proper radar clear zones where tree growth is a major concern.
2. DISTRIBUTION. This order is distributed to the Regional Airway Facilities Division, Section level; and to all Airway Facilities field offices.
3. CANCELLATION. This order cancels SO 6310.8 dated 2/16/90.
- * 4. BACKGROUND. In the past, radar services at several facilities has become degraded due to line-of-sight shielding by tree growth. Because the maintenance of a clear line-of-sight involving removal of trees is a costly and lengthy task, tree removal to ensure a clear line-of-sight requires advance planning.
5. PROCEDURES. The following guidelines shall be followed in achieving and maintaining proper clear zones for radar facilities. This includes facilities planned for replacement.
 - a. Panoramic photographs shall be taken for each radar site. Panoramics shall be updated every three years. One copy of the panoramics will be forwarded to the Systems Maintenance Operations Branch, ASO-460, and one copy retained by the sector. Panoramic cameras and transits with camera mounts have been provided to the following sector offices:

Montgomery, Alabama
Jacksonville, Florida
Miami, Florida
Covington, Kentucky
Columbia, South Carolina
Memphis, Tennessee
 - b. The Manager for Technical Support (MTS) and Sector Field Office Manager (or their designee) shall become knowledgeable of the radar plot, leases, and lease privileges. A copy of the plot layout, lease, and all lease privileges such as clear zones, etc., should currently be available at the responsible Airway Facilities Sector Field Office. If not, they may be obtained from the Real Estate and Utilities Branch, ASO-56.

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c. In general, the immediate radar environment defined as the radar clear zone is to be kept free of groups of trees or vegetation within a 1500-foot radius of the antenna. (This does not connote maintaining a "barren" clear zone.) Trees of moderate height may be permitted beyond the 1500-foot clear zone for a conventional site. Exceptions to these guidelines must be considered when removal of trees would unveil a building, powerline, body of water, or other structure which may be more detrimental than the presence of trees. Orders 6310.6 and 6340.15, Radar Siting Procedures, provide additional information on terminal and en route radar clear zones.

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d. If a lease is inadequate or the amount of land owned is insufficient to accomplish the guidelines in paragraph 4c above, sectors shall submit requests through ASO-460 for additional leases/purchases of property.

e. Sectors shall submit project requests for removal of trees/vegetation to comply with paragraph 4c above.

6. DETERMINATION. All sites cannot be made into optimum radar sites without excessive costs. Regional Office staff personnel will make the determination on a cost-vs.-benefits basis in cooperation with Air Traffic, Flight Standards, and the Airway Facilities Technical Support Staff as to whether the site should be improved, the facility antenna height changed, or left as is.

for Helene M. Roblin
C. R. Pinkerton

Manager, Airway Facilities Division